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GOP Assails Fulbright's Views On Foreign Policy

Stand Is Seen Leading To Surrender To Reds

Republicans Indicate Senator's Call To Examine 'Realities' May Figure In Campaign

Meany says Fulbright proposals amount to "appeasement" of Castro regime .....Page 7

By GERALD GRIFFIN
[Washington Bureau of The Sun]

Washington, March 26—Republicans in Congress tried to raise a political storm today over yesterday's speech by Senator Fulbright (D., Ark.), the chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee.

Their theme was that Fulbright, who had suggested that it is time for the United States to drop some of the "myths" from its foreign policy and examine the "realities," was advocating policy changes which would lead to a surrender to Communist powers.

The immediate reaction indicated a feeling that the Democratic Senator had provided new material for the Republican argument that foreign policy will be a major issue of this year's election campaign.

Notes Disagreement

Fulbright declared that he was speaking only for himself and had not cleared his speech with the Johnson Administration. The White House not only reaffirmed this late yesterday but noted disagreement with the Senator's statements on Cuba and Panama.

Nevertheless, Representative Miller (N.Y.), the chairman of the Republican National Committee, promptly expressed the belief that Fulbright's speech was "a trial balloon which the Johnson Administration is sending up to prepare public opinion for the acceptance of a foreign policy that could lead only to disaster for the United States and other free nations."

"Trample Underfoot"

Democrats showed no signs of joy over Fulbright's speech. As noted, the White House backed away from it. Senator Smathers (D., Fla.) said the Arkansas Senator was "monumentally naive and unrealistic" about Cuba, and Representative Selden (D., Ala.), chairman of the House Latin American Affairs subcommittee, criticized his remarks on both Cuba and Panama.

"The United States," said Selden, speaking of the Panama Canal treaty, "lives up to its terms under the treaty and expects the Government of Panama to do the same. A truly great nation cannot permit a mob to accomplish what we would not allow an army to do—that is, to trample underfoot our international rights."

Fulbright had said that the United States should agree now to negotiate revisions of the treaty with Panama, rather than insisting, as President Johnson has, that it will discuss treaty revisions but cannot make an advance commitment to make changes.

On Cuba, Fulbright had said that the Bay of Pigs invasion of 1961 had failed, and that the present economic sanctions applied chiefly by the United States have failed, too. He suggested that Fidel Castro is a nuisance rather than a menace to the United States, and should be treated as such.

"Aloof Disregard"

Selden voiced his disagreement this way:

"To say, as have some regarding our hemisphere's danger, that the poison is not so bad since it has not yet killed the patient, is a degree of aloof disregard for realities unparalleled since the London Times was rationalizing the Hitler menace for Englishmen in the 1930's."

Several House Republicans started an attack on Fulbright's speech but were cut off by Speaker McCormack (D., Mass.), who pointed out that it is against the rules of the House to comment on speeches in "the other body"—that is, the Senate.

Before McCormack banged his gavel Representative Wyman (R., N.H.) said Fulbright was advocating "surrender on the installment plan," and Representative Derounian (R., N.Y.) remarked that Castro is probably having a medal cast for Fulbright.

Denies Appeasement

Fulbright reiterated today that he is not advocating appeasement of the Communists but is suggesting that foreign policy should be discussed and that some "accurate assesments" should be made.

In addition to his suggestion that policy toward Panama and Cuba should be given a fresh examination, Fulbright had remarked that, while he does not favor recognition of Communist China, the United States should be ready to take a more flexible attitude toward Peking.

His argument was that American policy has become so rigid, largely because of political pressures here, that it is not adapted to the changes constantly going on around the world.

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